

Claims

1. A method for transacting an anonymous purchase using a computer-implemented purchasing system, the purchasing system having at least two computing devices interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 acquiring intermediary credit account information from a purchasing intermediary;
providing purchase transactional information, including at least some of the intermediary credit account information, to a retailer, wherein the purchase transactional information is provided by the
10 purchaser using a first computing device of the purchasing system; and
transacting a purchase between the purchaser and the retailer using said intermediary credit account information, thereby maintaining the anonymity of the purchaser.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of acquiring intermediary credit account information further comprises:

providing purchaser credit account information from the purchaser to the purchasing intermediary; and

5 in response to receiving the purchaser credit account information, providing intermediary credit account information from the purchasing intermediary to the purchaser.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the intermediary credit account information further includes a credit limit which is not to be exceeded when transacting the purchase.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the purchaser credit account information is further defined as a valid credit card number and expiration data, such that the corresponding credit card account is debit an amount no less than the credit limit associated with the intermediary
5 credit account information.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of acquiring intermediary credit account information further comprises:

buying a purchasing card from a retail establishment, where the intermediary credit account information is encapsulated on said purchasing card.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step of activating the purchasing card by contacting the purchasing intermediary prior to transacting a purchase.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said intermediary credit account information includes an intermediary shipping address.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

sending a purchased good to the intermediary shipping address by the retailer; and

forwarding the purchased good to the purchaser by the
5 purchasing intermediary, thereby maintaining the anonymity of the purchaser.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of acquiring intermediary credit account information further comprises providing discount coupons to the purchaser.

10. A computer-implemented purchasing system for transacting an anonymous purchase between at least two computing devices interconnected by a network, comprising:

a purchasing application residing on a first computing device, said
5 purchasing application receptive of purchaser credit account information from a purchaser;

an intermediary application residing on a second computing device and being interconnected to said purchasing application by the network, said intermediary application being operative to provide
10 intermediary credit account information in response to receiving purchaser credit account information;

said purchasing application further being receptive of purchase transactional information from the purchaser, including the intermediary credit account information; and

15 a retailer application residing on a third computing device and being interconnected to said purchasing application by the network, said retailer application receptive of the purchasing transactional information from the purchasing application and being operative to transact a purchase using the intermediary credit account information,
20 thereby preserving the anonymity of the purchaser.

11. The purchasing system of Claim 10 wherein the intermediary credit account information further includes a credit limit which is not to be exceeded when transacting the purchase.

12. The purchasing system of Claim 11 wherein the purchaser credit account information is further defined as a valid credit card number and expiration data, such that the corresponding credit card account is debit an amount no less than the credit limit associated with
5 the intermediary credit account information.

13. The purchasing system of Claim 10 wherein said intermediary credit account information includes an intermediary shipping address.

5 14. The purchasing system of Claim 10 wherein said intermediary application further capable of providing discount coupons to the purchaser.